GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:138
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Problems of Chilli Farmers of Andhra Pradesh
Galla Shri Jayadev

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that problems/ hardships are being faced by Chilli farmers in Andhra Pradesh due to lower remunerative price for their produce;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to purchase Chilli from farmers at Rs. 7,000 per quintal under Market Intervention Scheme and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has restricted the procurement price of chilli to Rs. 5,000 per quintal and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also true that the farmers are not getting remunerative prices in the absence of cold storage facilities and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any discussions have been held with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for sanctioning more cold storage facilities in Andhra Pradesh and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 138 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25TH JULY, 2017.

(a) to (c): Due to lower remunerative price of Chilli in Andhra Pradesh, the State Government had forwarded a proposal under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for procurement of Chilli during 2017 season @ Rs.8,000/- per quintal. Under MIS, commodities are procured at cost of production. Accordingly, Union Government approved the proposal of Government of Andhra Pradesh for procurement of Chilli @ Rs.5,000/- per quintal based on the cost of production of Chilli furnished by the State Government in their proposal.

(d): No, Madam, in order to arrest post-harvest losses of horticulture & non-horticulture produce and to provide remunerative prices to farmers, Government is implementing the Central Sector Scheme of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure to provide integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities from the farm gate to the consumer or from the production site to the market.

(e): Under the scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 35% for general areas and @ 50% for North Eastern States, Himalayan States, Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure and @ 50% and 75% respectively for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to maximum grant-in-aid of Rs.10 crore for setting up integrated cold chain projects in the country including Andhra Pradesh. At present, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is assisting total 236 integrated cold chain project of a total of 7.68 Lakh MT capacity of Cold Storage/Controlled Atmosphere (CA)/Modified Atmosphere (MA) Storage/Deep Freezer under the scheme for integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure including 10 integrated cold chain projects of total 0.26 Lakh MT Capacity of Cold Storage/CA/MA Storage/Deep Freezer in Andhra Pradesh. The scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure is demand driven and not region specific. Therefore, State wise funds are not allocated under the scheme.